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STAR OF MYSORE

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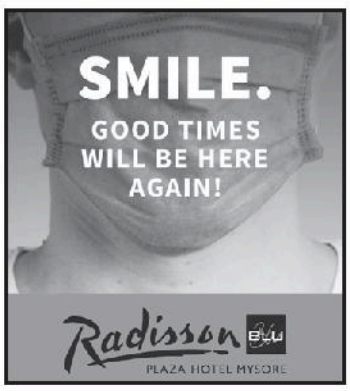


Rs. 1,250 crore package for various sectors: CM

CM Yediyurappa

- Amount to be transferred to bank account immediately
- Artists, art groups, auto and taxi drivers get monetary aid
- 2,150 doctors to be recruited within three days
- Decision on lockdown extension on May 23

Bengaluru, May 19 (SSV)- Understanding the plight of workers belonging to various sectors due to imposition of COVID-induced total lockdown across Karnataka till May 24, the State Government today announced Rs. 1,250 crore special package which will benefit lakhs of people who have been hit by stranded economy.

Disclosing this at a news conference in Vidhana Soudha here this morning, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said several economic activities have been restricted to help in checking the spread of Coronavirus across the State. This has impacted the lives of lakhs of people. To provide them a succour, the Government, despite financial constraints, has announced the special package to help people in distress. Giving details, the CM said, flower growers who have suffered loss due to lockdown will get a relief of Rs. 10,000 per hectare. This is going to benefit 20,000 floriculturists and will cost Rs. 12.73 crore to State Treasury.

Similarly, vegetable and fruit growers, who too have suffered loss, will get compensation of Rs. 10,000 per hectare. This will help around 69,000 farmers and cost Rs. 69 crore to State exchequer. Registered drivers of autorickshaw, taxi, goods vehicle, maxi-cabs, having licence, will get Rs. 3,000 each. This will cost Rs. 63 crore for the Government.

For construction labourers, those who have registered with the Government body, will get Rs. 3,000 each as one time compensation. The Government will have to bear Rs. 494 crore for doing this.

With regard to workers in the unorganised sector like washermen, blacksmith, cobblers, tailors, weavers, goldsmith, who are about 3.04 lakh in State, Rs. 2,000 will be paid to each person as one time compensation. This will cause an expenditure of Rs. 60.89 crore to the Government. For around 2,20,000 road-side vendors, Rs. 2,000 will be given. This will cause a burden of Rs. 44 crore to the State Treasury.

(See PACKAGE on page 6)

NOTICE
Dr|| T.V. Ramesh Piles Hospital
Ashoka Road, Opp.Clock Tower,
Mysore: 570 001
Mob: 9241723045 / 9449014158
Doctor available for consultation
from 20.5.2021 (Thursday)
Time: 10AM to 5PM

ALARMING: Mysuru War Room data shows positivity rate spiking up to 55 percent

Mysuru, May 19 (SSV & BCT)- The District Health Department is worried over high COVID-positivity rate (Test Positivity Rate) breaching 40 percent over the last 8-10 days in Mysuru District despite imposition of total lockdown. There has been increase in the cases in Mysuru and Nanjangud Taluks. Since the last two days, the positivity rate touched 55 percent, worsening the scenario.

According to the guidelines issued by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the positivity rate must be within 10 percent. While the State Government wants to bring down the positivity rate by 5 percent, there is no indication of the high positivity rate coming down in Mysuru any time soon.

People line up for free RT-PCR test at Dufferin Clock Tower in city this morning.

The District authorities have observed that increased movement of people to buy essential commodities between 6 am and 10 am in Mysuru and Nanjangud is one of the reasons for the spike in cases. People do not follow COVID guidelines and gather in groups in front of shops and this is causing the cases to spike, said the officials.

War Room data

As per the data released by District War Room, on Sunday (May 16), 1,980 samples had tested positive out of the total 3,550 samples tested, reporting a positivity rate of whopping 55.77 percent.

On Monday (May 17), 1,916 samples had tested positive out of the total 3,439 tested in Mysuru reporting a positivity rate of 55.71 percent.

On Saturday (May 15), the District reported a positivity rate of 42.2 percent and on Friday (May 14), the rate stood at 42.1 percent.

Taking the War Room data, the District Administration is being questioned why the positivity rate is high despite drastic reduction in RT-PCR testing.

The District Administration has reduced the daily tests from 7,500 to 3,500. This means that if the testing increases there will be more number of positive cases like it was being reported in the end of April where Mysuru was reporting 3,500 COVID-positive cases daily.

(See ALARMING on page 7)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Wednesday 19th May 2021

After OxyBus, KSRTC to introduce ICU-on-Wheels

Bengaluru, May 19 (UNI) - After Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa launched an innovative OxyBus service to aid COVID-19 patients on May 11, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has come up with an idea of introducing ICU-on-Wheels, equipped with ventilators, ECG machines and other equipment.

KSRTC officials said in rural areas, travelling to hospital may take more than an hour, thus necessitating such emergency vehicles after the success of oxygen buses.

KSRTC Managing Director Shivayogi C. Kalasad said the bus will act like a step down ICU to save patients in the golden hour.

"Each bus will accommodate six patients. We will have four ventilators, ECG and other equipment that are required during an emergency," he added.

All the six beds will have oxygen supply with separate cylinders. Two auxiliary oxygen cylinders and a concentrator will provide backup. A small electricity generator will also be placed on the bus. A private organisation has joined hands with the KSRTC to provide trained medical personnel.

He said the Corporation may have to spend Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh to convert a bus into an ICU, depending on the facilities on board.

"It is still very economical because most of the work on conversion and installation happens within our workshop. But we will require help from established hospitals to accomplish the dream of deploying one ICU bus in each district," he said.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

The purpose of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is to drive positive social change. India has been at the forefront by making CSR mandatory in select categories under the Companies Act, 2013. COVID-19 has highlighted the need to have a more structured approach, with corporates playing a key role in relief initiatives. But the debate to determine the effectiveness of any previous CSR efforts has thrown up several challenges: Finding reliable implementing partners, monitoring and tracking funds, and assessing their impact. The impact of COVID-19 has acted as a driver for the Government to shift from a "voluntary" to "mandatory" approach to CSR.

Companies will have to ramp up internal controls when selecting, getting information on and functioning of implementing partners to safeguard against misappropriation, misrepresentation and other vulnerabilities. The introduction of monetary penalties can be a deterrent, making it crucial to have strong systems, governance, transparency and maintain regulatory compliance. The accountability of companies has grown manifold, given the additional compliances and strict penal provisions. It is likely to require a significant overhaul in how organisations approach and run CSR programmes. The way forward demands CSR implementation, monitoring, record-keeping and ancillary activities be prominent in the company's wider corporate governance plan. — *Arpinder Singh and Saguna Sodhi in Hindustan Times*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Tiger spotted in Houston surrendered

Houston: The owner of a 9-month-old tiger seen loose in a Texas neighbourhood last week has surrendered the animal to authorities. "We are happy to report that the missing tiger seen in a Houston neighbourhood last week has been found and appears to be unharmed," the Police tweeted.

The tiger, named India, was immediately placed in the city's animal shelter and will be transported to the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary.

Gia Cuevas and her husband Victor Hugo Cuevas are the owners of the tiger. Gia Cuevas brought the animal to authorities on Saturday and is not facing criminal charges at this time.

The tiger's existence was first made known to authorities by people who saw it and warned their neighbours that the enormous cat was on the loose.

Boy builds world's tallest popsicle stick structure

Illinois: A 12-year-old Illinois boy broke a Guinness World Record when he assembled a 20.2-foot tower from popsicle sticks. Eric Klabel of Naperville built the 20.2-foot tower in segments measuring about 3 feet each.

Eric Klabel said he was inspired to chase the world record after watching a Guinness World Records video highlighting other record holders.

"I felt accomplished and grateful when I became a Guinness World Records title holder. My favourite thing about achieving the record was that I was able to be known for something I am passionate about," he said.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Injury to the ear drum by a foreign object or fall or a slap usually heals without much difficulty, but takes longer time compared to skin wound. The use of ear drops for an injured ear drum makes it worse as it disrupts the healing blood clot and introduces infection.

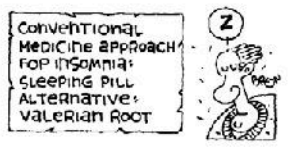
By Dr. Dathathri H. A. - ENT, Head & Neck Surgeon & Cochlear Implant Surgeon

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

(A unit of Manipal Hospitals)

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*



Alternative medicine involves any therapies that are not a part of mainstream western medicine. Complementary medicine attempts to bring together the best aspects of conventional mainstream medicine and alternative medicine.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAY 17	MAY 18
Day's Positive Cases	1,980	1,916
Total Positive Cases	1,14,107	1,16,023
Day's Discharges	2,388	1,976
Total Discharges	98,669	1,00,645
Day's Deaths	5	13
Total Deaths	1,410	1,423
Total Active Cases	14,028	13,955

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

DRDO urged to set up COVID Care Centres in Karnataka

Bengaluru, May 19 (UNI) - The Karnataka Government has urged the Centre to consider setting up COVID Care Centres in the State with the help of the Ministry of Defence or Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

In a letter to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi said the Department of Defence has a large land bank in Bengaluru and Belagavi, which is suitable for the said cause.

Referring to DRDO's initiative in setting up exclusive COVID Hospitals and Medical Centres in Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi and Ahmedabad, he said due to a surge in Coronavirus cases in Karnataka, Hospitals are facing tremendous pressure.

Setting up of such COVID treatment centres in Bengaluru and Belagavi will not only help patients in the region but will further ease the pressure on existing hospitals and medical professionals, Savadi noted and requested the Defence Minister to kindly consider it on priority basis.

REALLY...?

- ***While most people are aware that Coorg is known for coffee, few know of the fact that it is also Asia's largest producer of honey. Virajpet, also known as Virajpete is a sleepy town in Coorg. It is known to be a major hub for honey.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

The surgeon told his patient who woke up after having been operated: *"I'm afraid we're going to have to operate you again. Because, I forgot my rubber gloves inside you."* ***"Well, if it's just because of them, I'd rather pay for them!!"***

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 72.96
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.57
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.86
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.29

VOICE OF THE READER

Will MCC resolve online tax payment issues?

Sir,

This is regarding the software platform provided by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) for online payment of property tax.

On 6th of May 2021, I logged onto MCC website, checked the property details and proceeded to make payment. The payment was done and money got deducted but later the payment screen went unresponsive and no one in MCC Helpline answered the query raised by me.

The Helplines given by MCC are most of the time unanswered. When the call was received, the person at the other end directed me to contact the Revenue Officer (RO) or Inspector of the area. I tried to connect with three Officers.

One of them told me that he was not responsible for online payment while another RO told me she got transferred two days back from that area and she is not responsible and the third officer's cellphone was switched off. No one till now has answered me in a positive way.

MCC online tax issue is there from long time but the concerned Officer can address at least this one issue. I am waiting for almost 12 days to get the receipt of payment done. During the COVID times and lockdown, it is high time for the MCC to look for a good website provider with better record and experience.

—Narahari

Mysuru
18.5.2021

MCC's door-to-door
health check-up survey launched to curb COVID

Mysuru, May 19 (YDS&SSV)- The house-to-house health check-up survey launched by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) for early detection and treatment of Corona patients was inaugurated at Gandhinagar in city yesterday by area Corporator Dr. Ashwini Sharath.

Speaking on the occasion, she said the purpose of this drive was to detect the deadly Coronavirus in citizens and provide them treatment on time. Early detection of virus helps in early starting of treatment and high recovery rate. Most people do not show up any symptoms despite carrying the virus. This drive will help in identifying such persons, she added.

ASHA workers involved in this survey are given pulse oximeter to check oxygen levels in blood and thermal scanner to test body temperature. If oxygen level is less than 93 such persons require immediate hospitalisation, Dr. Ashwini said.

Health Inspector Darshan, Supervisor Nanjundaswamy, ASHA workers and members of Ward Task Force, Sharath Satish, Karna, Rakesh, Shyam and others were present.

Scholarship: Deadline extended till May 31

Mysuru, May 19- The Backward Classes Welfare Department has extended the deadline for Backward Classes and Nomadic tribes students to apply for post-matric student scholarship and Nursing scholarship, Vidyasiri scheme etc., to May 31.

The deadline has been extended due to COVID. The eligible students can apply online through the website: *www.ssp.postmatric.karnataka.gov.in*

For more details, log onto the website: *www.backwardclasses.kar.nic.in* or call: 80507-70005 or 80507-70004.

'COVID Heroes' in their own right

Students develop portal for information at fingertips

S. Sheethal

Ganya Janardhan

Sanjana Srinath

Sushma Ganesh

S. Vishruth

G. Yogesh

S. Mohan Kumar

Mysuru, May 19 (BCT)- As Mysuru battles with the second wave of the Novel Coronavirus, there are many who need information about the virus, way to combat it, the steps taken by the District and State to mitigate the impact of the contagion, real-time updates about the number of cases in Mysuru, recovered patients and also deaths.

While there are hardly any websites that give authentic information with latest data, a group of young and bubbling students have developed a web portal that collects and displays COVID resources and information in a structured manner. Web portals like these help the infected affected people and their families get authentic and verified information.

It has become popular too as within a week of the portal going live, it has got nearly 10,000 page views and the elated students are on Cloud-9 as their idea — that was conceptualised and given a shape overnight — has clicked.

The brain behind

The bunch of enthusiastic students is from Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering (VVCE), Mysuru. They have fruitfully utilised the lockdown period and connected with each other virtually to develop *https://svasthmysuru.com/* a must visit to all those who hail from Mysuru and are concerned about the city's battle against the killer virus.

The students, S. Sheethal, Ganya Janardhan, Sanjana Srinath, Sushma Ganesh, S. Vishruth, G. Yogesh, were led by S. Mohan Kumar who works in a corporate company and a former student of VVCE. While Ganya and Vishruth are from Computer Science Engineering stream, Sheethal, Sushma Ganesh and Sanjana Srinath are from Information Science Engineering, Yogesh is from Electronics and Communications Engineering stream — their junior.

It was Mohan Kumar who anchored the project, Ganya told *Star of Mysore*.

"Swasth means healthy and COVID has forced all of us to follow a healthy lifestyle. We wanted Mysuru to be healthy and that is why we coined the word Swasth-Mysuru," she said.

Calling their initiative 'Techlance Software', a start-up, the students, along with Mohan Kumar put together their expertise in web development and came up with a website where everyone can access the information at their fingertips. They took seven days to complete the website.

Midnight virtual session

"Ten days back we connected virtually in the evening sipping a cup of coffee and discussed the plan of action to develop an informative COVID portal. We conceptualised and decided to end the conversation after sometime. The same night, we were so excited and many of us could not sleep and we spent the dark hours contemplating on the name. We were on Google Meet and suddenly one of us proposed the name Swasth-Mysuru and that clicked. Now we are receiving a lot of response and accolades for that catchy name," Ganya recalled the team's midnight virtual meet.

Hunt for real-time data

The website provides accurate data and is updated twice daily. Apart from the students, there are volunteers who manage the interactive section of the website where chats are responded to, 24x7. "We are ready to update data real-time, every two hours if we get data. We are coordinating with district officials and other voluntary service portals for this," she said.

The youngsters are already a part of a volunteer group called Mysuru District Digital Platform for COVID-19 Assistance where they help the district in creating posters, informative videos and education materials to be disseminated to the public. The information shared on this website is verified by this team before publishing it. Most of the data or the information is sourced from District COVID War Room.

This project is supported by Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri and guided by her at times when important information is uploaded on the website. Deputy Director of Libraries B. Manjunath, who is the War Room in-Charge, helps the students to get information from the district portals. For more details, visit *www.svasthmysuru.com*

Novel idea from home during lockdown takes shape of *www.svasthmysuru.com*

SVASTHMYSURU
Sarve Santu Niraamayaah

The website provides information about bed availability, a Helpline for Remdesivir, oxygen status and other Helplines, free medicine suppliers in Mysuru, food distributors for the needy and isolated patients, plasma donation drive and other pieces of information like NGOs working on the field to provide oxygen and ambulance support. It also has information on blood banks, burials and cremations. Citizens can even use this website for locating COVID testing centres, isolation centres and free vaccination centres.

COVID-19 HELPLINE

MYSURU

0821-2424111
0821-2957811
0821-2957711

For victim's funeral contact MCC

94498-41195
94498-41196
0821-2418800

MANDYA

District War Room
08232-229393
08232-223033

Maddur Taluk
08232-232010

Malavalli Taluk
08231-242277

Srirangapatna Taluk
08236-252029

Pandavapura Taluk
08236-255128

KODAGU

COVID Hospital
08272-220606

District Helpline
08272-221077

Madikeri
08272-228396

Virajpet / Ponnampet
08274-256328

Somwarpet / Kushalnagar
08276-282045

CH'NAGAR

District Helpline
08226-223160
08226-1077

Kollegal Taluk
08224-252046

Gundlupet Taluk
08229-222225

Yelandur Taluk
08226-240029

Hanur Taluk Control Room
08224-268032

SVASTHMYSURU
Sarve Santu Niraamayaah

Visit: www.svasthmysuru.com for COVID updates, Helplines and related information

Ambulance Task Force to provide timely service to Corona patients

Mysuru, May 19 (MTY&DM)- Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) Chairman L.R. Mahadevaswamy, who is in-Charge of the District Ambulance Task Force, said that measures have been taken to provide free ambulance service for timely shifting of Corona infected patients to Hospitals and COVID Care Centres.

Addressing the Ambulance Task Force meeting at ZP Hall here yesterday, Mahadevaswamy bemoaned that the good services rendered by ambulances is getting overshadowed due to minor lapses here and there.

Regretting that the authorities are drawing flak because of lack of timely service even though there are enough ambulances, he stressed on the need for providing timely ambulance service as precious hours is vital in COVID treatment.

Maintaining that shifting of patients to Hospitals in private vehicles too has been a cause for virus spread, Mahadevaswamy emphasised on augmenting free ambulance services at all levels in the district. Noting that 108 ambulance service must be utilised in shifting the COVID infected, he wanted the Health Department to purchase ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulances and deploy two of them to every taluk. He also batted for a War Room-like facility for ambulance service.

Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) Chairman M. Appanna, who is in-Charge of last rites of COVID dead, asserted that there were no problems in the transportation of bodies and cremation of COVID dead in Mysuru city. But there are problems in rural areas due to lack of vehicles.

Noting that the absence of a Government vehicle arrangement system has left poor relatives of COVID dead severely inconvenienced, Appanna appealed the authorities to reserve vehicles for shifting of bodies to rural areas.

MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev, who heads the Bed Management Task Force, said that there were many complaints of fleecing by private ambulance drivers who charge exorbitant money for shifting of bodies. Pointing out that all private ambulances in service must be registered, he said that hiring fares must be fixed on kilometre basis.

Observing that action must be taken against ambulance drivers who demand more money than fixed fares, Rajeev said that Private Hospitals must put up boards mentioning the treatment costs fixed by the Government. He said that the display of such boards will help stop fleecing of patients.

MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag said that a Nodal Officer will be appointed for management of 108 ambulances. Taking strong exception to non-utilisation of 5 ambulances fitted with Ventilators and ICUs due to pending repairs, she directed the officials to get them immediately repaired and put them in service at the earliest. The Nodal Officers will monitor the quality of service rendered by the ambulances, she added.

MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraj said that the MCC has reserved three TT (Tempo Traveller) vehicles for shifting of patients to hospitals in MCC limits.

Pointing out that these TT vehicles had shifted 60 to 80 patients daily during the pandemic outbreak last year, he said now these vehicles are shifting 30 to 40 patents daily. He attributed the drop in numbers to the tendency of scary people to rush patients to hospitals in their own vehicles soon after they (patients) test positive for the deadly virus.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the district has thirty-three '108' ambulance services, out of which 28 are in service and five are under repair for the past one year. Out of the 28 ambulances available, two are assigned for COVID patients, 10 for Nagu-Magu initiative and the rest for other health services. Also, the RBI has donated three ambulances, with one each deployed at District Hospital, Trauma Centre, both located on KRS road and a COVID Mitra Centre.

District AYUSH Officer Dr. B.S. Seethalakshmi, District Health Planning Officer Dr. Umesh and other officials were present.

MCC appoints 24 doctors and 33 Nursing staff

Mysuru, May 19 (MTY&DM)- In a bid to overcome medical staff shortage at COVID Mitra Centres and other medical facilities, the Musuru City Corporation (MCC), in association with MUDA, has appointed 24 doctors and 33 nursing staff through direct interview in an emergency recruitment drive held at the MCC's Old Council Hall here on Tuesday.

The appointments are on a contract basis for a three-month period with a fixed monthly salary.

The selected doctors are paid a salary of Rs. 1 lakh each, while nursing staff will get Rs. 28,000 each.

The recruitment was conducted by a team of officials comprising MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh, District TB Control Officer Dr. Mohammad Shiraz, MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraj, Dr. Hemanth and K.R. ACP Poornachandra Tejaswi.

The officials, after scrutinising the documents of all the eligible candidates, conducted the interview as per set norms.

Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram donates medical kits to District Police

Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram Secretary H.V. Prasad handing over medical kits to SP C.B. Ryshyanth at the latter's office yesterday as Raghulal & Co proprietor N. Raghavan and Orthopaedician Dr. N. Nithyananda Rao look on. Picture right shows Prasad handing over the medical kits to City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta on May 14.

Mysuru, May 19 (PM&DM)- Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram on Nanjangud Road donated 250 primary medical kits to the District Police on Tuesday.

The kits were handed over to SP C. B. Ryshyanth at his office by Ashram Secretary H.V. Prasad along with a letter carrying the message of the Swamiji.

The seer in is message lauded the efforts of the Police, who are frontline warriors in the battle against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic and said that the Ashram, with concerns for health of the Police, was donating medical kits to Police personnel. The letter also carried a note by city's renowned Orthopaedician Dr. N. Nithyananda Rao, who is also a Trustee of the Ashram, on the dosage of Vitamin tablets for immunity boosting.

Each kit contains two N-95 face-masks, 10 general face-masks for use as double mask, sanitiser, calcium, vitamin and zinc tablets enough for a month, paracetamol tablets and an oximeter.

Raghulal and Co. proprietor N. Raghavan and Dr. Nithyananda Rao were present.

On May 14, Ashram Secretary H.V. Prasad had handed over 600 medical kits worth about Rs. 15 lakh meant for the city Police, to City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta.

The distribution of medical kits to city Police was launched by Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji in the presence of District Minister S.T. Somashekar, MP Pratap Simha and other people representatives at a programme held at the Ashram premises last week.

Bond on lines of Bhagyalakshmi scheme to orphaned kids on the anvil

Shashikala Jolle

Mysuru, May 19 (KMS&SSV) -The Department of Women and Child Development is planning to give a bond on the lines of Bhagyalakshmi Bond to the children whose parents have died due to COVID-19, said Women and Child Development. Minister Shashikala Jolle.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, she said this issue will be discussed with Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and then take a final decision. The Government is ready for rehabilitation of such children.

She said a residential school has been opened for COVID positive children below 18 years of age. A Helpline -1098 has been started for early detection of virus among children and treat them accordingly, she added. Senior IAS Officer Mohan Raj has been appointed as Nodal Officer for this helpline, she said.

She said that many kids in the State have been orphaned as the pandemic has snuffed the lives of their parents. The Government has set up a system to help those kids whose parents are admitted to hospital for treatment or one died and another under treatment.

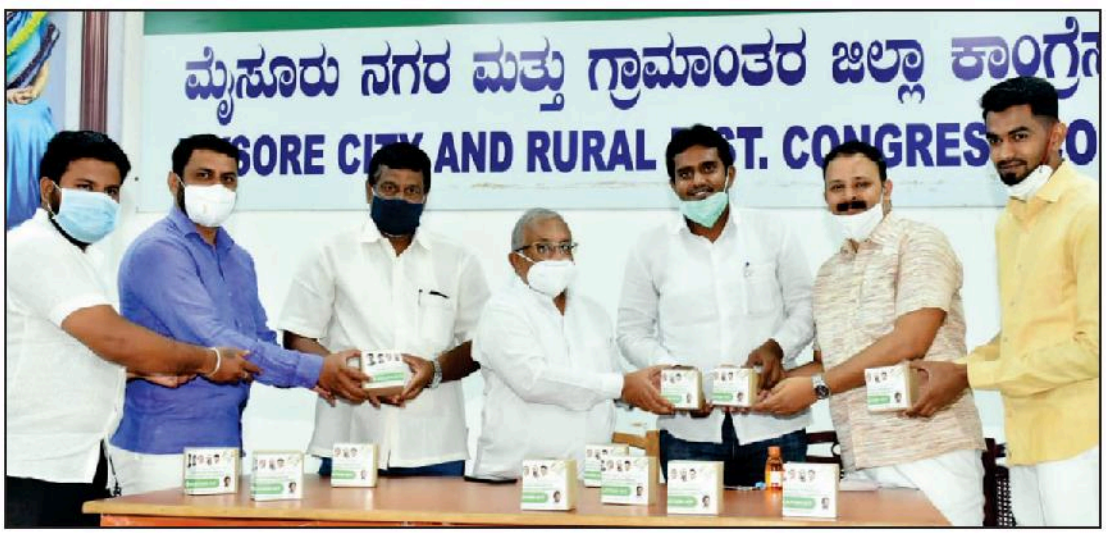
Special Paediatric COVID Care Centres in districts

The Minister said a special quarantine centre will be opened for children below 16 years. Besides, the Department will work on the special care for kids in the age group of 7-18 years and also identification of the special adoption centres.

Special Paediatric COVID Care Centres will be opened in all 31 districts for treatment of children with mild symptoms. Symptomatic children will be admitted to taluk or district hospitals and Special Care Officers will be appointed to take care of such children. Pregnant and lactating women and children under the care of Anganwadi workers will be under strict observation.

Minister Shashikala Jolle said the Department will pay Rs. 30 lakh compensation to 12 Anganwadi workers who died due to Corona.

Youth Congress launches distribution of medical kits to home isolated



Mysuru, May 19 (RKB&KS) - The Mysuru City and District Youth Congress yesterday launched distribution of medical kits to those in home isolation. The distribution was launched during a press meet at the Congress Office near City Railway Station.

Addressing the press meet, Youth Congress President Mohammed Harris said that the Youth Congress had decided to provide necessary medicines to those in home quarantine and added that selected leaders from various blocks and Congress workers, will distribute the medical kits to the door step of home quarantined patients.

Speaking on the occasion, Congress leader M.N. Naveen Kumar said that the State Youth Congress had provided 2,000 medical kits which will be distributed to patients under home quarantine. Pointing out that the phone numbers of doctors are also provided in the medical kits, Naveen added that patients are required to consult the doctors by calling them on the phone numbers provided and take medicines after consulting them.

Alleging that the BJP was misleading the people and has failed in controlling the pandemic, Naveen said that the Congress, to help people has come out with this initiative. Devaraja Block Congress President Chandru, Seva Dal City President R. Girish, leaders Rajesh and others were present.

Food distributed to the needy, homeless

Meanwhile, the Youth Congress, led by former MLA M.K. Somashekar distributed food and water bottles to attendants of patients and the homeless near K.R. Hospital and Cheluvamba Hospital yesterday afternoon.

Somashekar said that many labourers, daily wagers and economically weaker families have been suffering due to lockdown and they need help. "The Government has not come to the aid of the working class, who are facing a tough situation," he added. Youth Congress State Secretary Deepak Shivanna, Mysuru City Youth Congress Vice-President Syed Abrar, Youth Congress former President Mohsin Khan, Devaraj Urs Block Youth Congress Vice-President Naveen, leaders Yashwanth, Mohammed Azar, Azam Pasha, Mustafa, Ramu, Raghu and others were present.

Increase medical staff before 3rd wave: Advisory Panel

Bengaluru, May 19 (KMS&SSV)- Technical Advisory Committee has suggested the State Government to increase medical staff to effectively face third wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, a committee, headed by senior IAS Officer and former Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Ajay Seth, had submitted a report during the first wave of Corona which must be re-visited by the Government.

The expert committee has stressed the need to increase the number of doctors, nurses, paramedics and health staff to deal with the contagion effectively.

For every 100 positive patients, there should be one doctor and for every 10 patients there should be one nurse. In ICU, there must be one nurse to take care of two patients and every eight patients require one doctor. In reality, in ICU, there is one doctor to look after 10-15 patients and one nurse for 20-30 patients. But the guidelines by National Accreditation Board for the Government Hospitals were not followed as investment was being made only on ventilators, ICU and oxygen concentrators. But no attention was given towards the staff who operate these equipment.

Obituary

P. Cheluvaraju

Mysuru, May 19 - P. Cheluvaraju (55), an employee of SBI ADB Mandya Branch and a resident of Dasanakoppal, passed away yesterday in city.

Vice-President of SBI Employees Union, he leaves behind his wife, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held yesterday at Dasanakoppal

S. Balasubramanyam

S. Balasubramanyam (80), a resident of Saraswathipuram, passed away on Monday following brief illness.

He leaves behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Jayanagar Burial Grounds

Parvathamma

Srirangapatna: Parvathamma (80), wife of late N.M. Puttaswamy and a resident of Nelamane village, Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district, passed away yesterday night at the village.

She leaves behind four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed this noon at the village.

Alleged bed-blocking

Three-member team raids Private Hospitals

Mysuru, May 19 (SSV)-A three-member team from different departments has become a nightmare for a few Private Hospitals in city that had allegedly indulged in 'bed-blocking.'

After the surprise raid by the team members on some Hospitals, others have mend their ways and not playing any mischief with regard to reserving beds for the Government-referred COVID patients.

The team comprises Dr. D.G. Nagaraj, MCC Health Officer, Dr. Mohammed Shiraz Ahmed, District Tuberculosis Officer and Nodal Officer for RT-PCR testing & reporting and Poornachandra Tejaswi, KR Sub-division ACP.

The *modus operandi* of this team is totally different. Hitherto, other teams would visit Hospitals, check computer on admission and discharge of patients and then discuss with Hospital Managements over a cup of tea.

However, this team, after reaching a particular Hospital, would wear PPE kit fully or wear half of the body, and directly enter into the COVID Ward to physically check the number of beds reserved for Government-referred patients and the management quota beds.

They would take the pictures of the beds allotted by the Hospital Management other than patients recommended by the District Administration for admission and then upload pictures on an exclusive WhatsApp group privy to top officers of various departments for further course of action.

One of the members told *SOM* that a few Hospitals had allegedly indulged in bed-blocking by not showing discharge of the Government-referred patients on records but had given beds to patients of their choice. 'Some managements had no answer when they were caught red-handed. They offered apologies and promised not to repeat such mistakes. We have promptly reported the same to Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri so that none should question our integrity,' a team member said.

Why was the team formed?

The reason behind constituting this team was due to complaints from the general public about the alleged bed-blocking by a few Private Hospitals, after the State Government urged all Private Hospitals to reserve 50 percent of beds for the Government-referred patients. Out of many officers, these three officers volunteered to be members of the team mainly to make beds available for the needy patients.

The DC immediately issued an order about constituting a team and vested it with powers to raid any Private Hospitals among 30-plus Hospitals which have been empanelled, to physically examine the allotment of Government quota beds. The presence of a Police Officer in the team helped in gaining entry into any Hospital without hindrance.

Continuing, the member said the team was able to unearth truth only after entering the COVID Ward with full body protection. In fact, the Hospital Managements had never expected the team to make entry into the COVID Ward to physically count the number of patients referred by the Government and those admitted by them.

Hospitals, which had lied to the Government, were strictly warned by the team. As the team conducts surprise raids, other Private Hospitals have become extra alert and are not trying to fudge information in computers fearing filing of cases.

"Consequent to our surprise raids, the bed availability in Private Hospitals for the Government-referred patients has increased. The Hospitals prefer to keep the Government-referred beds vacant rather than allotting them to their patients. We collect inputs from patients and their attendants, verify it and then make surprise checks. We strike at will without intimation but in the interest of poor patients," he added.

Bed allotment at Triage

The District Administration is planning to allot beds for serious patients at Triage Centres so that they could get admission at the earliest and get treatment. Till recently, patients were ferried in ambulances from one Hospital to another in search of bed. Henceforth, it must not be there as the bed availability position will be given to COVID Mitra Centres from where the beds will be allotted.

It may be recalled, District in-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar, at a meeting held at Zilla Panchayat auditorium on May 11, had directed Officers to personally visit all 34 Private Hospitals which are supposed to give 50 percent of beds to the Government and give an accurate report on the actual availability of beds.

Rs. 1,250 crore package

(Continued from page 1)

For an estimated 16,095 artists and art groups, Rs. 2,000 will be given and this will cost Rs. 4.82 crore to treasury. The three months interest on loans borrowed by farmers and self-help groups from PLDs and LDBs worth Rs. 134.38 crore will be paid by the Government. This is going to benefit 4.25 lakh farmers. Besides, the payment of instalment by farmers which was due on May 1, 2020, has been extended up to July 31, 2021.

Under Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana, all BPL card holders will be distributed 5 kg rice free of cost for the months of May and June. This will benefit over 1.26 crore BPL card holders with a total of 4.34 crore beneficiaries and will cost Rs. 180 crore to State exchequer. Those who have applied for ration cards, but not got it yet, will also get 5 kg rice free of cost for the months of May and June. For APL card holders, food grains of 10kg will be distributed at Rs. 15 per kg. This will benefit an estimated 3.01 ration card holders in the State.

Free food

The CM said food will be provided free of cost at all Indira Canteens in urban areas and it is going to benefit 6 lakh people everyday. For the Government, it will cost Rs. 25 crore.

Cost of treatment

Yediyurappa said so far, the State Government has spent Rs. 956 crore on providing free treatment to over 2.06 lakh Corona positive patients during the first and second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The Government has made an advance payment of Rs. 1,000 crore to COVID vaccine companies to supply three crore vaccine vials for inoculating people in the age group of 18 to 45 years.

Apart from this, Rs. 50,000 will be released to each Gram Panchayat from State Disaster Management Fund for COVID management in villages. There are 6,000 Gram Panchayats in the State.

As many as 2,150 doctors will be recruited within three days, the CM said. Replying to a question, the CM said the monetary benefits announced today will be deposited in Bank accounts immediately and there will be no delay in payment. Last year, there was little delay due to technical glitches. Yediyurappa said it was very difficult to say whether this will be the last special package as it is dependent on how pandemic will come down

Lockdown decision on May 23

On further extension of total lockdown beyond May 24, Chief Minister Yediyurappa said today's meeting was only restricted to the special package and a decision on lock down extension will be taken only May 23.

Mayor, MCC Commr. formally launch house-to-house health survey

Mysuru, May 19 (MTY&SSV)-Mayor Rukmini Madegowda, Deputy Mayor Anwar Baig and MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag today formally inaugurated house-to-house survey for early detection and treatment of COVID positive patients, in Ward No. 36 and 10 in city.

Speaking on the occasion, Shilpa Nag said the second wave of COVID-19 has proved to be very dangerous and taking lives of people in the age group of 25 to 45 years.

On the one hand, the positive rate was increasing and on the other hand the virus has spread to community. The population in that age group was dying within three days after testing positive for Coronavirus. Many deaths were taking place due to negligence and over-confidence of people, she noted.

The Commissioner appealed the people to co-operate with COVID Ward Task Force Committee members and Health volunteers who will visit every house to check the saturation level and body temperature of every citizen for early detection, and none must show negligence.

In case the saturation level was less than 94, such citizens will be shifted to Mini COVID Care Centres (Urban PHC) or three major COVID Care Centres for suitable treatment depending upon health condition.

Mayor Rukmini Madegowda said the survey has been launched in people's interest and sought the co-operation of everyone to bring down the Corona positive cases and casualties. Senior MCC Officers were present.

Man commits suicide

Mysuru, May 19 (RK&KS) - A 40-year-old man, said to be depressed in life, reportedly committed suicide by hanging self at his work place in Somanathanagar in the taluk on Tuesday morning.

The deceased is Anand, a resident of Krishnamurthy Nagar in city and was working at a fabrication shop in Somanathanagar near Lingambudhipalya.

Anand committed suicide at his work place yesterday at about 11 am and the incident has been captured in the CCTV camera. Jayapura Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

KSOU exams postponed

Mysuru, May 19 (SPN&DM)-Due to the present COVID-19 crisis, the KSOU has postponed the first and second year B.Ed exams that were scheduled to commence from May 28. The fresh schedule of exams will be notified in the coming days, according to press release from KSOU Registrar (Evaluation).

Persons above 45 years of age inoculated with Covishield

50 percent for frontline and healthcare workers' second dose and 50 percent for public

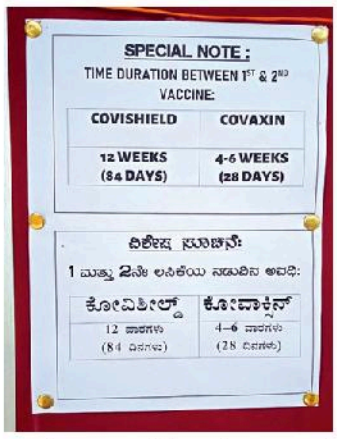
Mysuru, May 19 (PM&BCT)- The Mysuru District Administration has started the process of vaccinating residents who are above 45 years of age with first dose of Covishield. Fresh stocks have arrived in the district and the vaccination will be given at Primary Health Centres and designated vaccination centres including the Charaka Hospital.

As per the Government notification, public can be vaccinated after the vaccination process (second dose) of frontline workers and healthcare workers is completed. If the frontline workers and healthcare workers do not come forward to receive their second jabs, such vials can be given as first dose for people above 45 years of age.

In Mysuru, there are over 599 frontline workers and healthcare workers who are yet to get the second dose and among them, 383 are healthcare workers and 216 frontline workers. There are a total 73 healthcare workers who are yet to receive second dose of Covaxin and there are 110 frontline workers who are yet to receive second dose of Covaxin.

There are 1,205 citizens who have to receive second dose of Covaxin. Including healthcare workers, frontline workers and citizens there are 1,388 persons who have to get the second jab of Covaxin. In all, there are 1,987 persons who have to receive Covishield and Covaxin in Mysuru.

Some healthcare workers and frontline workers have already received their second dose of Covishield in the three-to-six



week gap and they have used their alternative mobile number and documents for this. There are several who have been vaccinated with Covishield in January-February and priority will be given to them in this phase of vaccination, Dr. L. Ravi who is the nodal officer for vaccination in Mysuru district told *Star of Mysore.*

"The expert panel on COVID vaccination in the country has recommended increasing the gap between two doses of Covishield to 12-16 weeks, deviating from European Union and UK suggestion to follow a 12-week interval between two shots of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Even the Centre has approved extending the gap between the two doses of the Covishield vaccine from 6-8 weeks to 12-16 weeks following the recommendation from the panel," he said and added that the protocol issued by the Centre is being followed across the country.

As the time gap for the second dose has been increased, the authorities have decided to give the first dose of Covishield to public who are above 45 years of age. While 50 percent of the doses will be reserved for healthcare workers, frontline workers, Police and Panchayat Department staff, 50 percent will be reserved for public as per available stocks, Dr. Ravi added.

Informative posters

In front of vaccination centres, posters and signboards have been put up informing the public about the vaccination schedules. Like at Charaka Hospital, boards have been put up informing the public that only Covishield is available for persons above 45 years of age and only second dose of Covaxin is available.

Informative posters have been put up in both English and Kannada language – for Covishield it's a gap of 84 days (12 weeks) and for Covaxin, the gap is 4-6 weeks or 24 days.

Alarming: Mysuru War Room data shows positivity rate spiking up to 55 percent

(Continued from page 1)

Breaching ICMR specifications

"We are trying our level best to keep positive rate within 10 percent. That means, less than ten percent of people must report positive of the total 100 tests conducted. Now, over 40 to 55 persons are testing positive for Coronavirus of the total 100 tests. The rate is way beyond the ICMR specification," noted a Senior Health Officer.

In fact, Mysuru is one among a few districts which has been in red zone category due to high COVID-positivity rate and mortality rate, only after Bengaluru. The number of RT-PCR test has been reduced by almost 50 percent in both city and district on the ground that people are unnecessarily getting it done at free testing sites. This was delaying results of genuine patients. The high testing rate resulted in more number of positive cases — both asymptomatic and symptomatic.

Virus spread in villages

According to the Health Officer, one of the main reasons for the spike in positive rate has been the spread of virus into villages due to influx of people working in Bengaluru consequent to Corona curfew last month. So, the infected persons have spread the virus into rural areas. This has resulted in the surge of positive rate from Taluks.

The first wave had spared villages due to nationwide Janata Curfew that had stopped the movement of every kind of transport facility. But the second wave has swept across all six Taluks in Mysuru claiming lives as well as infecting large groups of people. Nearly 45 percent of positive cases are reported from taluks, the Officer claimed.

"Had the rural population initiated measures to prevent the entry of others into their territories, villages would have been safe by now. The situation is so bad that the Taluk Administrations have converted schools, community halls and other public buildings into COVID Care Centres. The rural masses are paying a heavy price for their negligence during initial days of virus outbreak in February-March this year," he added.

Officers have stressed the need to extend the current lockdown by another 8 to 10 days in order to check the steady march of virus into rural pockets. Already, the health system is under terrible stress and it may crumble if immediate attention is not given, they said.

BAI and CREDAI to set up Oxygen Generator plant

Mysuru, May 19 (RK&DM)- In a bid to boost oxygen supplies, Mysuru Chapter of BAI (Builders Association of India) and CREDAI (Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India) will be setting up a Medical Oxygen Generator Plant at Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital on JLB Road, which has been converted into a COVID Hospital.

In press release, H.V. Rajeev, who heads the COVID Bed Management Task Force said that following the request made by him and District Minister S.T. Somashekar, BAI and CREDAI have come forward for setting up a Medical Oxygen Generator plant in Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Hospital premises, at a cost of Rs. 40 lakh.

In this week's Pet Talk, Maneka gives tips on how to combat possessiveness in pet dogs

Pet Talk

Maneka Gandhi

After how many days can we take our puppy for a walk on the street?

You can take your puppy for a walk after 14-16 weeks of age, but wait until 10-14 days after your puppy's last vaccination booster.

How can I stop my dog from being possessive about his food ?

One tactic for putting a stop to protective tendencies in a dog is to teach him that good things happen, when other humans or animals approach their food or belongings, from a young age. Use your hands to fill your dog's bowl with food at mealtimes, so the puppy learns that when others come near their feeding bowl, something positive will occur. You can also bring a high value treat toward the bowl with your hand while the dog is eating. You can help your dog develop self-control, respect, and good behaviour by teaching your pup that food, treats, and toys must be earned.

Before serving meals, handing over treats, or giving up toys, have your dog perform a task, such as sitting or lying down. This lets your dog know it is not okay to take whatever he wants, and he must work for food and rewards. Before giving food, treats, or toys to your dog, ensure it recognises that you are the owner.

Asserting ownership is another way to deal with over-possessiveness. One tactic for asserting ownership is to have your dog wait before accessing its food or belongings. Stand over the food bowl or item confidently, and do not allow her to run for it until she has sat and waited patiently for your permission. You can teach a dog to respond to the "leave" command when he has possession of something in his mouth. Hold out a treat, and call out the command "leave" as he lets go of the item and walks towards you. Reward it with the treat for his obedience, and remove the item as quickly as possible.

"Give" is another useful command for combating possessiveness in your dog. You can teach your dog to give when he has a toy in his mouth. Gently take the toy in your hand without trying to pull it away. With your other hand, show your dogs some treats. When he lets go of the item to take the treats, speak the command "Give". Reward him with the treat, and let him have the toy back. With these, over protective tendencies in a dog can be stopped.

Can you leave a dog in a car with AC on?

Do not leave your dogs alone in parked cars. Cracking windows, short periods of time, relatively mild days, leaving water, or running the air conditioner, do not make a parked car a safe place for a pet to be alone.

Do dogs remember if you hit them?

Dogs will not remember that you hit them in many cases, as long as it is not a frequent occurrence. Dogs do have episodic memory, allowing them to remember specific instances of intense abuse. While a dog's memory is limited, they do have the capacity to associate habitual abuse with their owner. Dogs are very forgiving and want to please, so long as you do not habitually abuse your dog, or use excessive force, the dog is unlikely to remember it for very long. The stronger your relationship is with your dog, the quicker the memory will be erased. Dogs tend to feed directly off your energy, so as long as you exhibit calm and positive energy, they will likely bounce right back. The use of excessive force can quickly result in the dog associating you with negative treatment, placing your relationship with the dog on the wrong foot and getting him unduly scared of you. If you've taken the time to build a relationship with your dog, a display of your disapproval will be all that you require. Positive reinforcement is a far better way to train a dog, when possible, by rewarding positive behaviour more than punishing negative ones.

How do I say sorry to my dog?

It's hard to say whether dogs do understand when you say sorry, so, if you are going to apologise to your dog, do it right at the point you did whatever it was that was wrong. By saying sorry to your dog at the point you upset them, scared them, and broke their trust, there's more chance that they might understand the context of the apology. If you have just trodden on their toe and made them yelp, the best way how to let your dog know you're sorry is to be ultra-calm.

Do this by lowering the tone and volume of your voice, moving down to their level, and talking in soft and soothing tones. You can supplement this soft apology approach with tactile messages, such as strokes, whilst apologizing to your dog for hurting them.

Give them a little physical space and talk calmly to them. That way it's more likely that your dogs will forgive you when you accidentally hurt them. If you have been out all day, or perhaps haven't been giving your dogs the attention they deserve, then you might owe them an apology. The best way to do that with active dogs is to take them out to do what they love. You can offer an apology to your dogs by playing with them, showering them with attention, and making them your sole focus. Whilst they might not understand the apology, they will appreciate the love and attention you can give to them.

Can we give dogs porridge after whelping?

Porridge can be given to dogs after whelping. Oats are a wonderful ingredient, as they are very digestible and also high in protein. After whelping, the mother may appear to go off food. This is not unusual, but you can help her digest her food by soaking oats in a little warm milk and making a mash with a porridge-like consistency.

Does a dog's behaviour change when she is pregnant?

One of the earliest and most common symptoms that one is likely to notice is a sudden change in their appetite. Dogs can experience morning sickness, which can put them off their food during the first few weeks. One can also notice lack of energy, behavioural changes, and one of the most noticeable sign that dog is pregnant will be changes to their nipples, which will begin to appear more swollen and become darker, particularly the ones closest to their hind legs.

The behaviour of pregnant dogs change. They may become less active and lethargic and may not want to eat regular foods. They might experience nesting urges, where they might hoard food or other items. Pregnant dogs may become usually irritable to noise and strangers, and will want more attention and affection.

To join the animal welfare movement contact
gandhim@nic.in
www.peopleforanimalsindia.org

PFA HELPLINE

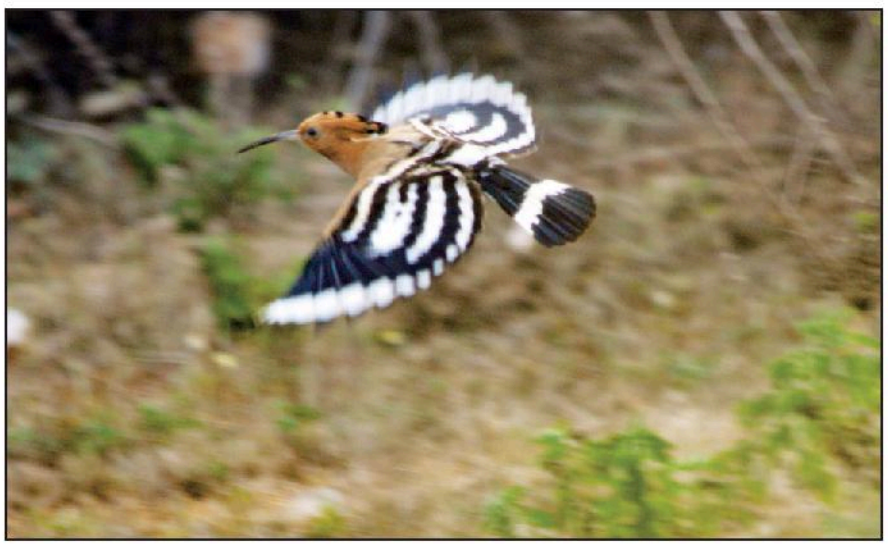
Savitha Nagabhushan - 9845654429

DOGS, PUPPIES, CATS, KITTENS AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION [Contact: Ph: 0821-2598213]
Timings: 8 am to 8 pm

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS

Readers with queries about their pets health, care and behavioural issues may send their questions to *SOM* : *voice@starofmysore.com*

A Bird or A Butterfly?



With a funky crest, a long tapering bill, zebra striped wings and a flight resembling a butterfly, Hoopoe (Upupa epops, Hudhud in arabic) is one of the most distinctive birds to spot. Named after its typical call, these birds can be spotted throughout Asia, Europe and Africa. In fact, in 2008, the Hoopoe was named as the National Bird of Israel. Hoopoes are small ground dwelling birds which feed on insects and foraging on the ground. They usually stay inside holes in tree trunks and do not build a nest. For a Hoopoe, the beak is the most important tool. They use it to dig the ground to find insects and also to scoop up winged insects in mid-air. These photographs were captured on a vacant site in Kanakadasanagar.

Ironically, the 2014 Cyclone Hudhud named after this bird which devastated the east coast of India, ended up killing a large number of Hoopoes.

—H.S. Sreeranjani, Sharadadevinagar 1st Stage

Tusker falls into pit in Kodagu, trench dug to rescue

After mission, elephant bangs its tusks into JCB; crackers burst to drive it back to woods

(Pic. 1) ***Elephant reaching out as if to appeal for rescue.*** *(Pic.2)* ***The machine digs the trench.*** *(Pic.3)* ***Attempt to climb the trench.*** *(Pic.4)* ***Tusker loses balance and falls in an exhausted and a helpless state.*** *(Pic.5)* ***The machine operator pushes the trapped tusker up.*** *(Pic.6)* ***Elephant charges at the JCB machine and bangs its tusks into the iron shovel.*** *(Pic.7)* ***Crackers burst to scare it away.***

Kushalnagar, May 19 (Akshay&BCT)- A wild elephant which strayed into a village near Siddapura in Kodagu District and fell into an elephant trench was rescued by the Forest Department staff yesterday morning. The elephant was stuck for four hours before a trench-like passage was dug to get it out and save it from the deep pit and to drive it away to the forest.

Visuals showed the distressed elephant making considerable effort for the initial climb out as the locals clapped and cheered it on. The incident happened at Avaregundi village near Karadigodu between Maldare and Virajpet near a reserve forest area. The elephant had fallen into the trench as it tried to enter the village

The tusker, aged about 24 years, was either part of a group of jumbos that had roamed into the forest area or a loner that had reached Avaregunda, part of a routine migratory route along the elephant corridor. The tusker, however, ventured close to a human habitation and fell into the trench that was dug by the Forest Department to prevent elephants from raiding villages in search of food.

Following an alert by the villagers that the tusker had fallen into the trench, Department officials rushed to the spot at 9 am and had taken a backhoe (JCB in common parlance) to dig the trench even as the elephant was trumpeting from the ditch. "We used a JCB to dig something like a trench, so the elephant could move out, Virajpet Circle Range Forest Officer Devaiah told *Star of Mysore* this morning.

"The elephant trench was deep and the tusker was likely to sustain injuries as it was protruding its trunk as if to reach out. Soon after the trench was dug, the elephant tried to climb but in vain and our JCB operator had to push the elephant up the trench," Devaiah said. Moreover, the trench was very narrow giving the tusker little wriggle room to escape.

Videos of the rescue operation showed that the exhausted elephant falling off and struggling to get up. Finally the tusker was literally pushed up the trench and even the tusker mustered some strength to get out. Probably disturbed by the sound of the backhoe and seeing a lot of humans around it, the tusker soon after getting out, attacked the JCB and banged its tusks against the backhoe loader — a metal shovel/bucket on the machine's back.

In a fit of rage, the tusker repeatedly pushed the backhoe loader while the JCB operator was trying to scare it away. Even the people gathered there were shouting to scare the pachyderm. The tusker, however, did not budge. To save the JCB operator and the people gathered around, The Department staff then burst crackers and hearing the loud sound, the tusker ran into the woods, trumpeting.

Virajpet Circle Assistant Conservator of Forests Roshni, forest staff Sanchith Somaiah, Mohanraj from Police Department and others were present.

Pack of dogs raid sheep pen, kill 12

Mysuru, May 19 (KS)- A pack of dogs, which raided a sheep pen on Monday midnight, have killed 12 sheep besides injuring about five of them.

The incident took place at the sheep pen belonging to farmer Narayan at Janata Layout in Kadakola village of the taluk.

Though Narayan heard the barking of dogs and bleating of sheep, he (Narayan) did not go out to their rescue out of fear and when he examined the sheep pen the next day early morning, he found 12 sheep dead and five seriously injured. He immediately informed the Veterinary Hospital. Narayan is said to have suffered a loss of Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 90,000.

Veterinarian Dr. Apoorva visited the spot and conducted an inspection. Union Farmers' Co-op Bank Vice-President Kadakola Kumaraswamy has urged the authorities concerned to provide adequate compensation to Narayan and has demanded the Gram Panchayat to take steps to control the menace of stray dogs in the village to protect the livestock of villagers.

Bear carcass found

Mysuru, May 19 (YDS&KS)- The Forest Department staff, who were on their regular beat, have found a carcass of a female bear near Chamahalli of Veeranahosahalli Range in Nagarahole Reserve Forest yesterday.

The dead bear was aged about five years and the staff immediately informed their higher officials, who rushed to the spot along with Veterinarian Dr. Mujeeb Rahman, who conducted the post-mortem. The carcass was burnt later.

Veeranahosahalli RFO Naman Narayan Nayak, DRFO Chandresh, Dwarkanath, Vijay and others were present.

WORD OF THE DAY

Archipelago

Pronunciation: ahr-kuh-PEL-uh-goh.
Meaning: An expanse of water with many scattered islands; a group of islands; something resembling an archipelago; especially : a group or scattering of similar things.
Origin: The Greeks called it the Aegean Pelagos and the Italians referred to it as Arcipelago (meaning "chief sea"), but English speakers now call it the Aegean Sea. Numerous islands dot its expanse, and 16th-century English speakers adopted a modified form of its Italian name for any sea with a similar scattering of islands. In time, archipelago came to refer to the groups of islands themselves, and now it is often used figuratively, as in, for example, "an archipelago of high-rise buildings."
Example: "The Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,100 islands, is recognized globally as a megadiverse nation and a biodiversity hotspot." — The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 30 Mar. 2021.

THE ODD WORD

Abapical

At the lowest point.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

An elephant never forgets

Meaning: It is used when referring to someone who has an excellent memory.
Origin: If taken literally, this phrase sounds more like an exaggeration than it does accurate. But even so, it should be mentioned that while these animals may not be capable of remembering everything perfectly, they do indeed have very good memories. For example, there are reports of elephants being able to remember people or other animals they've been with before, even well after a decade of separation. Anyway, where does this phrase come from? Well, it may stem from the reputation elephants have for being intelligent animals. However, there is a more plausible explanation as to where it comes from, so let's talk about it: There's apparently an older expression that goes 'a camel never forgets an injury.' While this specific saying is not common today (at least, not in the USA), it is possible that the phrase 'an elephant never forgets' derives from it. After all, the wording is noticeably similar between these two expressions, so this is most likely the case. The earliest we could find it in print is from the Wagga Wagga Advertiser newspaper, February 1883: "And depend upon it such ill-used men like the Delhi elephant, never forget the sting, and seize the first available opportunity for bespattering the reporters with mud."

QUOTE BOX

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.

—Abraham Lincoln

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

S D E O B L U
TENNIS

Answer: Mixed doubles tennis.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

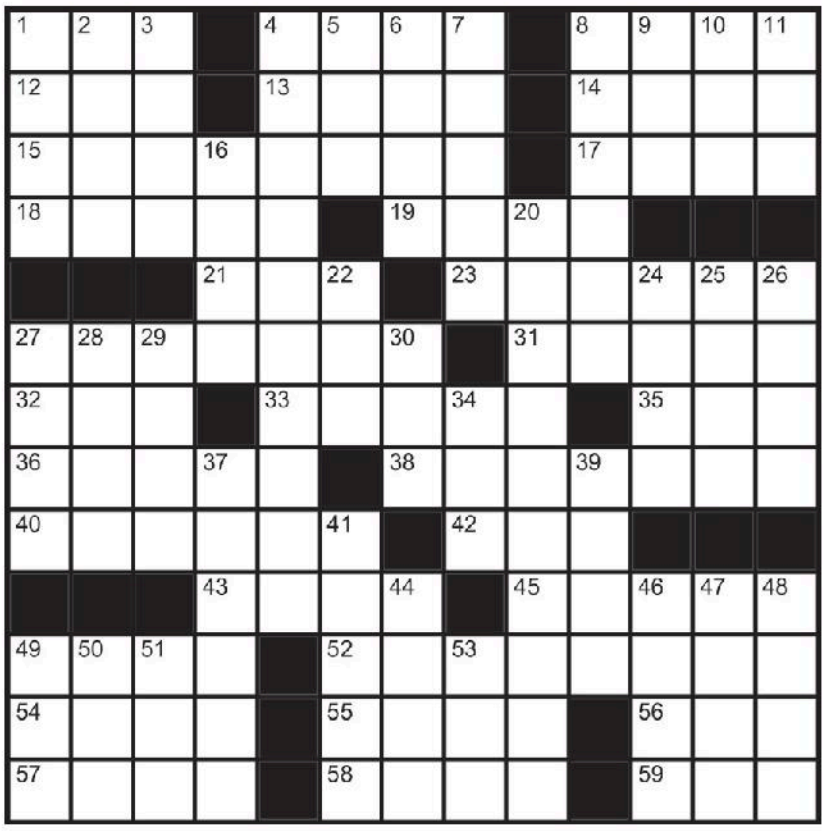
1 Pounds
4 At the home of, in French
8 Bollywood star Katrina ____
12 Take nourishment
13 Cod-like fish
14 Unsightly
15 Be like a spider - and hatch a plot! (4,1,3)
17 Indian leavened bread
18 City in Gujarat
19 To pull along
21 Reqd Time of Arr.
23 Be able to spare?
27 Inert pill
31 A large-headed friction match
32 Electronic Industries Assoc.
33 Countrified
35 ___ Biao : Mao Zedong's famous general?
36 Give a speech spontaneously? (2-3)
38 American state, capital Phoenix
40 Port in SW Russia
42 Prefix meaning "nature"
43 WWII group
45 Tall building
49 The first king of Israel
52 White metallic element
54 Ever present as a prefix
55 Famed fiddler of ancient Rome?
56 Harem room
57 Secular; a layman
58 College official
59 Actor Chaney

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

H	A	K	A	■	N	E	A	R	■	C	H	I
O	R	A	L	■	I	D	L	E	■	O	I	L
S	T	U	M	B	L	E	A	C	R	O	S	S
T	Y	R	O	L	■	N	E	T	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	O	B	■	■	O	V	A	T	E
■	A	S	T	O	U	N	D	■	P	I	E	D
I	N	T	■	D	R	O	O	P	■	D	L	O
Q	U	I	Z	■	R	E	L	A	P	S	E	■
S	P	R	I	G	■	■	T	I	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	O	S	E	■	S	U	A	V	E
C	I	R	C	U	M	S	T	A	N	C	E	S
A	S	S	■	D	U	S	T	■	C	H	I	P
N	A	T	■	A	G	E	S	■	E	E	L	Y

DOWN

1 Not so much
2 Mahatma Gandhi or R. G. Nadkarni
3 Disturbance
4 Talkative fellow
5 Hum and ____ : hesitate?
6 Supplanted - "deek" anagram?
7 Striped animal
8 Martial art (4,2)
9 Turkish military leader
10 Playback singer Arun
11 Danish island
16 Undercover cop, in short
20 Disease; source of misery
22 Rajasthan's Mount ___
24 Scandinavian capital
25 Bridle or constrain
26 Financial inst. __ Bank
27 Fruit that sounds like "pair"?
28 An outdoor bathing pool
29 Types of East Indian shrubs
30 Pray for us - ___ pro nobis ?
34 Have being
37 Of or in sloping kind of letters?
39 Move at speed
41 Article of food, victuals?
44 Cut, snicker - "seen" anagram?
46 Fleece
47 Internal as a prefix?
48 Spielberg's Saving Private ___
49 The sun in Spain
50 Against med. advice
51 Varsity
53 ___ la la... : song humming?



SUDOKO

	2			5	9	8		
		7			1			2
1							3	
3	9			4				
7			5		3			9
				6			1	8
	7							6
6			2			5		
		5	4	9			7	

Answer to previous puzzle

5	2	1	3	7	9	4	8	6
8	7	4	6	2	1	5	3	9
6	3	9	8	4	5	1	2	7
4	9	6	5	3	7	8	1	2
2	1	5	4	9	8	7	6	3
3	8	7	1	6	2	9	5	4
1	6	3	7	5	4	2	9	8
9	4	8	2	1	3	6	7	5
7	5	2	9	8	6	3	4	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

WNLVXNV LW C TLMMVAVXQLCR VJGCQLKX.

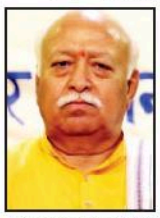
AVRLOLKX LW C YKGXTCAF NKXTLQLKX.

TODAY'S CLUE: X EQUALS N

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Research is the process of going up alleys to see if they are blind.

POSITIVITY UNLIMITED

'With strong and positive mind, we can overcome Corona pandemic'


Dr. Mohan Bhagwat

There is no denying the fact that the situation around us is very difficult. The Corona pandemic has swallowed the dear and near ones of many. There are black clouds of grief and sorrow hovering over the society. But there is a silver lining to these black clouds and this silver lining is the strength and positivity of our mind with which we can surely overcome this pandemic, said Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohanrao Bhagwat.

He was delivering the concluding lecture in the five-day series "Hum Jitenge - Positivity Unlimited" organised by the COVID Response Team (CRT), Delhi, from May 11.

Dr. Bhagwat said that there is no denying the fact that the situation around us is very difficult. The pandemic has threatened the very existence of human race. However, we had faced many such situations in the past and had overcome them with our determination, commitment, and positive attitude. Viewed against those difficult challenges, the present pandemic is not that serious, and we can overcome this with the strength of our minds and positive attitude, he said.

Dr. Bhagwat exhorted the people to understand the seriousness of the situation and face it boldly. Whatever situation is there, we must fight with it the way we can, he said adding that the RSS Swayamsevaks are serving the society in whatever possible way they can to emerge victorious in this war against the virus. He said that if our mind gives in we will not win this war. To avoid this, we have to keep our mind strong by adopting various ways like Yoga, Pranayama, Suryanamaskar etc. We have to keep our body 'Corona negative' but mind positive to overcome the pandemic threat.

In such trying times we have to show the unity of the society and stay away from mudslinging. We must help the needy sections of society by whatever way we can, Dr. Bhagwat said. He further said that the situation is not of despair and frustration, but to fight to win. We will not allow ourselves to be overtaken by this frightening situation.

He quoted the example of RSS Founder Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, who lost his parents on the same day in the Plague pandemic when he was barely in his teens. But he digested this shock and plunged himself to ameliorate the condition of the people of the nation. He developed a selfless love for the society that inspired him to dedicate his life for the well-being of the society. Such examples are our perennial sources of inspiration, he said.

We are believers in the life and death cycle. This cycle goes on endlessly and therefore, such pandemic-like threats do not deter or distract us from our mission to serve the society, he added.

Quoting Winston Churchill, who won the war against Germany during World War II, Dr. Bhagwat referred to some lines inscribed on the wall in Churchill's office. The lines read: "Please understand that there is no pessimism. There is no place for defeat, they just do not exist." With this positive attitude Briton won the war under Churchill's leadership by defeating the enemy who was far superior, mighty, and well-equipped. The British accepted the threat as a challenge and defeated the enemy. Similarly, we also have to accept this Corona pandemic as a challenge. Once we do that, even if the third wave of the pandemic strikes it will wither away.

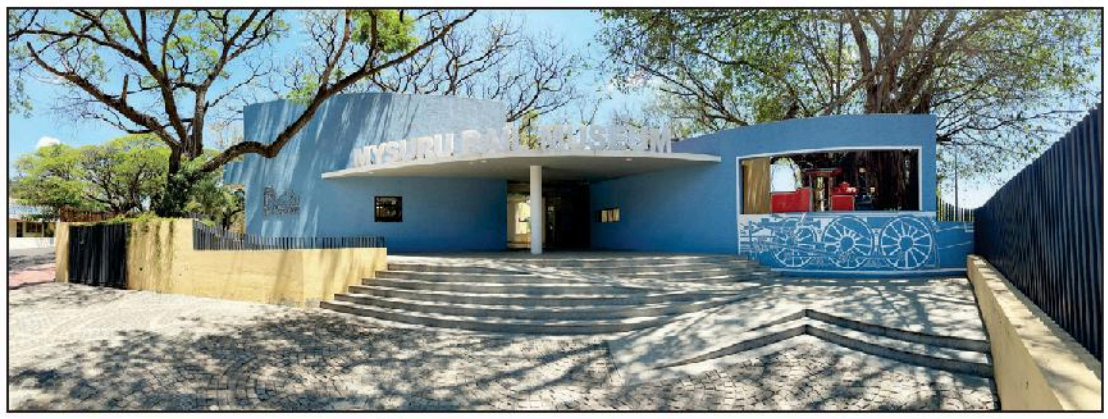
Quoting the example of 'Samudra Manthan' he said that emergence of valuable stones, and the terrible poison did not deter the process of churning the ocean till the nectar was obtained. We need such unshakable determination to win over the current pandemic threat, Dr. Bhagwat said. Showing unity of the society is of utmost importance at this hour of crisis, he said.

He also drew the attention of people towards the economy of our country. He said in the situation where people have lost their jobs, businesses collapsed and earnings affected, we should help them in whatever way we can. This is the litmus test of our courage. We must remember that 'Success is not final; failure is not fatal; Courage to continue is the only thing that matters', he concluded. 'Hum Jitenge' 'We shall win' this fight against Corona.

International Day of Museums-2021

'Record your experiences in a diary or video, become part of the narrative of Rail Museum'

Theme: *"The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine"*



Mysuru, May 19- The devastating second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdowns have compelled Mysuru Division of South Western Railways (SWR) to close both its Mysuru Rail Museum at Mysuru city as well as the Malgudi Museum at Arasalu in Shivamogga District for visitors on the occasion of International Day of Museums-2021 (May 18).

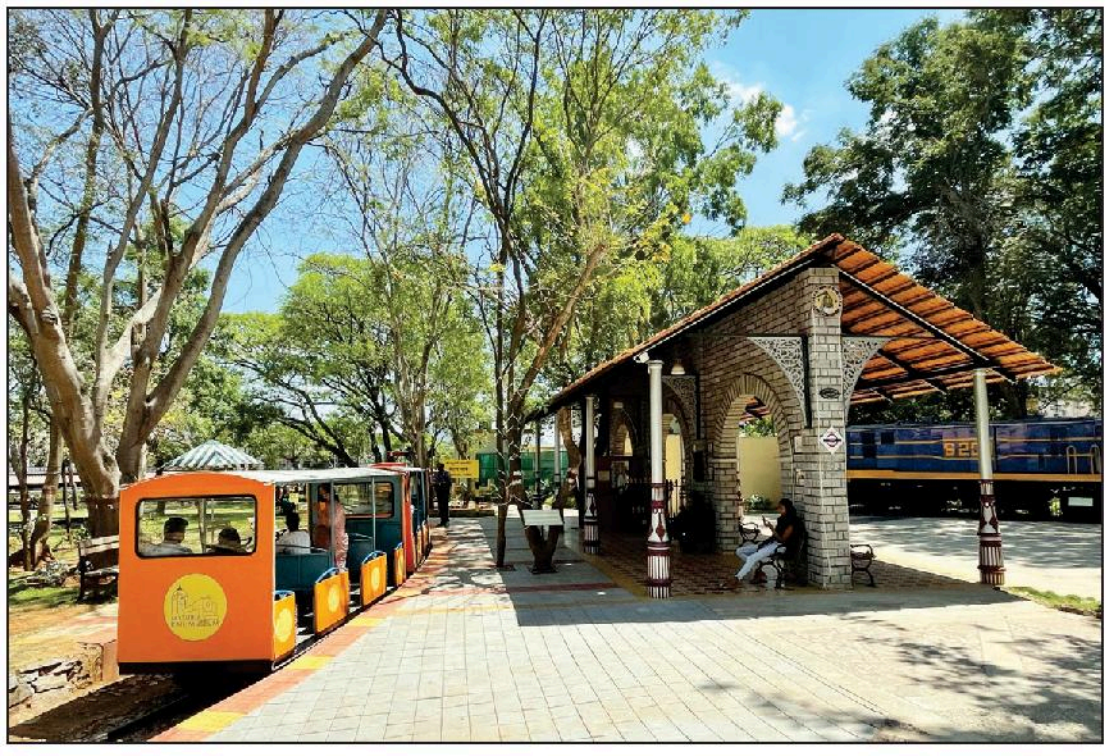
Consequently, plans for addition of artefacts and features have been rendered difficult. The focus is now on sustaining the operations meaningfully notwithstanding the fact that the resources are limited with an eye towards the future consistent with this year's theme *"The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine."*

Rahul Agarwal, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), SWR Mysuru Division, has called upon the Nodal Department managing the affairs of the Museums to devise innovative schemes to augment the revenue in a big way.

He has also sought the cooperation of Corporate Houses to contribute funds under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives on creating more of interactive facilities in the Rail Museum to make it truly world class. Agarwal further said that Mysuru Rail Museum had played a pivotal role in preserving many of the remnants of the historical journey of the Railways in this region for over 140 years.

"While we are all in isolation and confined to our homes, the Railways continue to contribute significantly in mitigating the sufferings of the people even during this critical times," Agarwal said and called upon individuals to record their experiences in a diary, or videos, which can later become a part of the narrative of the Museum with voices being mainly from economically marginalised groups like migrant labourers to ordinary citizens, as to how they have responded to the present crisis.

Agarwal said that people can take the virtual route to Mysuru Rail Museum to understand the evolution of the Railways founded by the rulers of the erstwhile Princely State of Mysore as it takes a while for people to come back to the brick and mortar buildings. "We are rethinking our long and short-term strategies in the changed scenario," the DRM added.



Black Fungus treatment to start soon at MMC&RI

Bengaluru, May 19 (KMS& BCT)- Amid rising mucormycosis or Black Fungus in COVID-19 patients in Karnataka, the Government has started a dedicated treatment facility at Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru on a pilot basis and has also identified regional centres to treat the fungal infection.

The regional centres include Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI), Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences in Kalaburagi, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences in Hubballi, Kasturba Medical College in Manipal and Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru.

Black Fungus has spread panic and fear among people and even if they have minor nasal tract or eye infections, they rush to doctors. There is an increased apprehension among people if their nasal stuffiness or one-sided headache or toothache is a warning sign of mucormycosis.

Although mucormycosis is rarely seen in non-COVID immuno-compromised people, it is now mainly seen as a post-COVID-19 complication among those who have uncontrolled diabetes, are immuno-compromised following steroid treatment for COVID-19. Karnataka so far recorded 97 cases of Black Fungus infection officially and the Government has also decided to constitute a committee with an epidemiologist and a diabetologists to treat Black Fungus.

Health Minister reacts

Karnataka Health Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar said, "People who are diabetic are more prone to this rare fungal disease. Excessive use of steroids and contamination in ventilators and other equipment are also the causes of Black Fungus infection. We are forming a committee and also have asked the Union Government for the medicine which is used in the treatment of the Black Fungus."

A single patient needs 40- 60 vials. The Centre has approved 1,050 vials out of which, 450 have been supplied to the State. Recently the Karnataka Government has asked the Centre to supply 25,000 doses of AmphotericinB. "I have asked the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan to supply 25,000 (doses of) AmphotericinB. The State Government has placed an order to purchase the antifungal drug," he added.

Dr. Sudhakar held a meeting with experts to discuss the measures to be taken to prevent and treat mucormycosis. The expert committee headed by Dr. H. S. Satish, Head of the Department, ENT at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) has been formed to study and submit a report to the Government. The BMCRI is researching the cases with the help of doctors from the Government-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital in Bengaluru.

Humidifiers, a cause

A rare but serious fungal infection, mucormycosis or Black Fungus is being detected relatively frequently among COVID-19 patients. The disease often manifests in the skin and also affects the lungs and the brain.

The fungus enters through the nasal cavity in persons with low immunity. Then it attacks the eyesight. One should get treatment immediately after it enters the nose. It is learnt that the water used in humidifiers in hospitals is causing this.

The State Health Department has now notified mucormycosis as a disease and all hospitals have been told to mandatorily report the cases. Dr. Sudhakar said "Measures are being taken to identify sources of contamination to prevent infection. I urge people to not panic and take all precautions post-COVID recovery to prevent infection," he said.

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IN LOVING MEMORY of

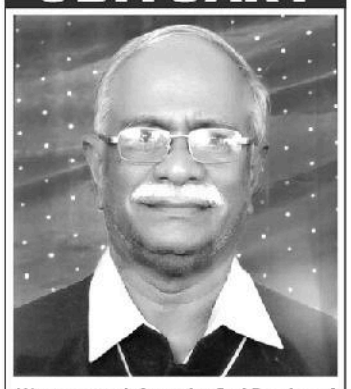
A.R. Sathyanarayana
D.O.B: 18.07.1951 - D.O.D: 14.05.2021
Deeply missed by your beloved mother, wife, brother, sister, daughters & relatives

SAD DEMISE

D.O.B: 15.06.1966
D.O.D: 18.05.2021

Com. P. Cheluvaraju
Vice President
State Bank of India Employee's Union
Left for his Heavenly Abode On 18-05-2021
State Bank of India Employee's Union dips its banner for the departed Comrade.

OBITUARY



We regret to inform the Sad Demise of
Prof. Madegowda
(78 Years) (Rtd.) University of Mysore, Resident of Kuvempunagar, Mysore passed away today morning (19th May) following brief illness.
In Grief: Family and friends

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BRIEF TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysure invites For & on behalf of the President of India, Sealed item rate tenders from experienced Contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for the following work(s):

Tender Reference No.	**BARC/MYS/PO&M/JJ/CL/PP/21-22/**
Name of work	Up Keepment inProcess Plant.
Estimated Cost	₹ **2,99,700/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
Period of Completion	**12 Months**
Earnest Money Deposit	NIL, Bid Security declaration may please be provided as per format enclosed.
Security Deposit	2.5% of tendered value
Performance Guarantee	3.0% of tendered value
Cost of Tender Document	₹ **500/-** (Rupees Five hundred only) (Non-Refundable)
Tender Sale Period	From **17-05-2021** upto **27-05-2021, 16.00 hrs.**
Due date & time for submission of Tender	**28-05-2021** up to **15.00 hrs.**
Date & time of opening of Tender	**28-05-2021** on **15.05 hrs.**
Place of Tender Submission	In Box No: 3 at Building No: 2 in BARC, Mysuru
Place of Tender opening	Building No: 2 in BARC, Mysuru

Tender documents will be issued only in person on written request and not by post or Courier.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
For & on behalf of the President of India

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Plant Operation and Maintenance Division, Mysuru,

CORRIGENDUM-I

Tender no: BARC/MYS/PO&M/JJ/COMP/PP/2021
Name of work: Machining of Diaphragm Compressor piston ring & piston housing.
With reference to above, the tender sale period is revised as mentioned below:

SL.NO	Tender terms	Existing terms	Revised terms
1	Tender sale period	03/05/2021 to 12/05/2021 Till 16.00 Hrs	03/05/2021 to 04/06/2021 Till 16.00 Hrs
2	Due date & time for submission of tender	13/05/2021 Upto 15.00 Hrs	07/06/2021 Upto 15.00 Hrs
3	Date & time of opening of tender	13/05/2021 on 15.05 Hrs	07/06/2021 on 15.05 Hrs

All other terms and conditions are as per NIT dated 25/03/2021

Sd/- Chief Engineer, BARC
For and on behalf of President of India

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